

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO, EASTERN DIVISION
170 NORTH HIGH STREET
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215-2403

TELEPHONE
(614) 469-6638

December 1, 2004

Dear Bench-Bar Conference Participant:

We are writing to announce that the next Bench-Bar Conference will be held on **Wednesday, March 30, 2005**, at the Roberts Convention Centre, I-71 and State Route 68, Exit #50, 123 Gano Road, Wilmington, Ohio, www.robertscentre.com, 800-654-7036. This facility is located less than one hour from the cities of Columbus, Cincinnati, and Dayton. Our goal was to find a facility that equalized the travel time for participants and avoids involvement with inner-city traffic and parking problems. We are trying this as an experiment to determine whether a more central location works better for the majority of the participants.

Enclosed is a draft program format. Our focus will include the discussion of the ethical and professionalism problems that arise in the Electronic Filing environment, and motion practice and pretrial procedures. These topics will be discussed generally and then on a chapter-specific level. In particular, we plan to discuss means to standardize the chapter 13 practice among the court locations, and we will discuss recent changes to the confirmation procedures implemented in Columbus. We have applied for four hours of continuing legal education, including an hour each for ethics and professionalism.

We strongly encourage comments on the proposed agenda, so that we can finalize plans. Also, if you would like to actively participate in the planning, let us know. As always, the goal is to provide a forum for the discussion of all practice issues to improve our professional lives. Please direct your suggestions or interest to the following individuals:

Chapter 7

Monica V. Kindt, Chair
Cohen Todd Kite & Stanford
250 East Fifth Street #1200
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
513-333-5245
mkindt@ctks.com

Chapter 13

Margaret A. Burks, Chair
Office of Chapter 13 Trustee
36 East Fourth Street #700
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
513-621-4488
mburks@cinn13.org

Chapter 11

Victoria E. Powers, Chair
Schottenstein Zox & Dunn
250 West Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
614-462-5010
vpowers@szd.com

We anticipate mailing registration materials in January 2005. Please place the March 30, 2005, date on your calendar.

DRAFT PROGRAM

MORNING SESSIONS 9:00 - 12:30

9:00 a.m. - 9:20 a.m. – Opening Remarks

9:20 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. – “Functioning in the ECF Environment and the Ethical and Professionalism Considerations”

Panel – Judge Moderator
3 other judges
1 Assistant U.S. Trustee
1 consumer debtor’s attorney
1 consumer creditor’s attorney
1 chapter 11 debtor’s attorney
1 chapter 11 creditor’s attorney
Derrick Bolen, Esq.
Michael Webb – Clerk
John Stephens-Court Operations

10:00 a.m. - 10:40 a.m. – Table Discussions related to Preceding Panel Discussion

10:40 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. – Break

11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. – “Motion Practice and Pretrial Procedures: ‘You May Hear From the Court Before the Hearing’ ”

Panel- Judge Moderator
3 other judges
1 Assistant U.S. Trustee
1 consumer debtor’s attorney
1 consumer creditor’s attorney
1 chapter 11 debtor’s attorney
1 chapter 11 creditor’s attorney
(different participants than ECF Panel)

11:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. – Table Discussions related to Preceding Panel Discussion

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. – Lunch (“Reflections of Time on the Bench from Retiring Judges Barbara J. Sellers and Donald E. Calhoun, Jr.”)

AFTERNOON SESSIONS 1:30 - 4:30 [BREAKOUT SESSIONS – SEPARATE ROOMS]

1:30 P.M. - 2:45 P.M. – Judges, members of the U.S. Trustee offices, and attorney moderators discussing ECF Issues with separate Ch. 7, Ch. 11 and Ch. 13 groups

2:45 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. – Break

3:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. – Judges, members of the U.S. Trustee offices and attorney moderators discussing Motion Practice and Pretrial Procedures with separate Ch. 7, Ch. 11 and Ch. 13 groups. Group will also include the three standing chapter 13 trustees to discuss adopting more uniform practices, and the new confirmation procedures implemented in Columbus.

4:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. – Closing Remarks – Complete evaluations and comments